"Dedicated To The Artist In All Of Us"

JAMAICA PLAIN ARTS NEWS

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ARTS COUNCIL NEWS

CAROL CELEBRATIONS ON CENTRE STREET

The Arts Council is sponsoring Christmas Caroling on Centre Street this year. The following is a list of times and groups. The location will be the old firehouse. If you'd like to join one of the Arts Council groups call Terry Gaffney (522-5660) or just come on by.

Monday, December 17 (3:00), the children of Blessed Sacrament will perform.

Tuesday, December 18 (1:00), the James Michael Curley School Chorus will be heard.

Wednesday, December 19 (7:00), its the Arts Council carolers.

Thursday, December 20 (7:00), features St. Thomas Aquinas.

Friday, December 21 (7:00), its the Arts Council again.

Saturday December 22 (3:00), Arts Council.

The Arts Council will help sponsor two series this winter, a film series on Friday nights in January and early February at J.P. High School, Thursday nights will find a performance series at the Footlight Club on Eliot St., sponsored also by this paper and the Footlight Club.

The following meetings of the

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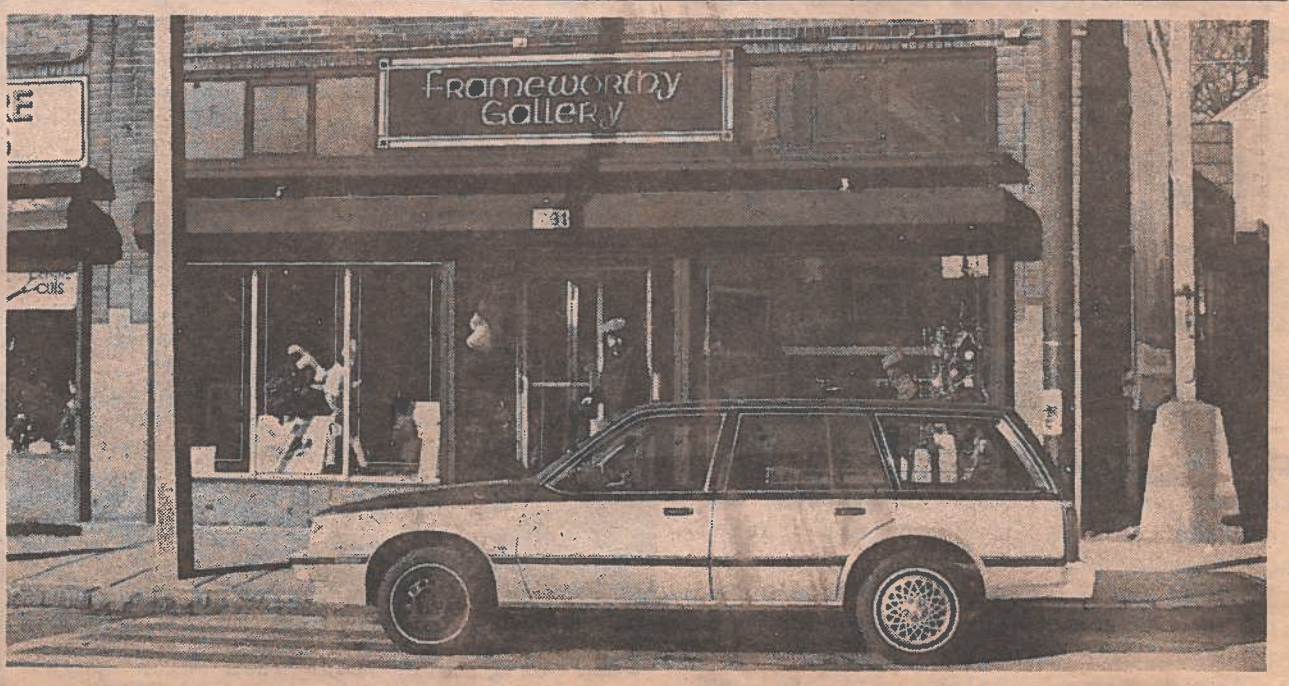

GALLERY BEGINS SECOND YEAR

Celebrating the beginning of their second year in business, Bill and Suzanne Presley of Frameworthy Gallery at 761 Centre Street, are expanding and growing.

Over the past year they have mounted ten shows of original art, seven of these featured Jamaica Plain artists. The major part of the business is picture framing of all types, silkscreened posters and prints, and fine quality ready-made frames. They carry a few ceramics, jewelry and some items especially for Christmas such as the hand-blown glass ornaments of Amanda Barrow.

This shop had been a dream of the Presleys for fifteen years. For the past ten years, Suzanne had pursued framing as a hobby in her basement while running a general law practice for a living. Bill is a consultant and both have collected art for their own enjoyment for years.

Donuts came available the time seemed right. The space is large and meets their needs for a showroom, a framing workroom, offices, and now a nursery for baby Douglas. They took a second mortgage on their house, spent two months cleaning out the floor-to-ceiling used TVs and appliances, and painted every inch.

The idea of exhibits grew out of the desire to support talented but not necessarily well-known artists. They hoped that it would bring people into the shop and once in, remind them of the artwork at home that they'd put off framing, as everyone does.

The Presleys found that the response to the exhibits wasn't as great as they

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CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS HAVE COLORFUL HISTORY

The yearly celebrations of the Christmas season are replete with excitement for the eye and ear, perhaps more so than any other season. We tend to assume that the ritual and traditions we observe were somehow decreed all together, for religious purposes, and have existed for centuries, waiting for our modern society to strip them of their meaning and purpose.

The truth is different and distinctly more interesting, many of the customs having their roots in pagan tradition, coming from many nationalities and times, and the holiday as a whole falling out of favor as recently as the past hundred years.

For three centuries after the birth of Christ there was no agreed upon day for the celebration of the birth, it coming during the feast of the Epiphany --January 6 in many places; having a movable date in others. Meanwhile, the season was filled with pagan festivals and feasts. The Roman Saturnalia from December 17-21, and the festival of the calends with feasting and enjoyment and no work. Teutons and Celts built rituals around magic called upon to guar-

antee the return of light and growth. The boar, a symbol of regeneration, was sacrificed and consumed, yule logs were lit and "caroling" from door-to-door by the women was common. Anything relating to fertility became significant, such as "evergreen". Tristam P. Coffin points out that "liquor was important, for liquor is made from the crops, appears out of ferment as if by magic, has power to transform, stimulate and subdue man ". It was into these varied traditions that the church fathers inserted the Christ-mass, choosing December 25, the Mithraic "Birthday of the Unconquered Sun" which celebrated the lengthening of the days after the solstice.

By 1100 AD, Europe was converted to Christianity with every conceivable combination of religious and pagan activity. By the Renaissance there were three distinct clusters of celebration: the medieval Roman Catholic Christ-mass which combined the spiritual and the festive, the Protestant Christ-tide which was simply spiritual to the point of severity, and the Yuletide which focused on merry celebration, quite unconcerned about Christ. For the most part people went about their festivi-

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